# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2934
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
FOREIGN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Govt. has offered World Trade Organisation (WTO) to allow foreign educational institutions in the country to provide higher education; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the reaction of the Government thereto?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI)

(a) The Government have made offers under the negotiating platform for the Genera! Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in the field of Higher Education to India`s trading partners.

(b) The offers made are:

| Education Services | Limitations on Market Access | Limitations on National Treatment |
|---|---|---|
| Higher Education Services | | |
| | (1) None subject to the condition that service providers would be subject to regulations, as applicable to domestic providers in the country of origin. | (1) None |
| | (2) None | (2) None |
| | (3) None, subject to the condition that fees to be charged can be fixed by an appropriate authority and that such fees do not lead to charging capitation fees or to profiteering, Subject further to such regulations, already in place or to be prescribed by the appropriate regulatory authority. In the case of foreign investors having prior collaboration in that specific service sector in India, FIPB approval would be required. | (3) None |
| | (4) Unbound except as in the horizontal section | (4) Unbound except as in the horizontal section |

Modes of supply of services ; (1) Cross-border supply; (2) Consumption abroad; (3) Commercial Presence; (4) Movement of Natural persons.

The negotiations have not concluded as yet. These offers can be modified or withdrawn at any time during the negotiations.

The Government has been against any haste in opening the education sector to foreign participation under a multilateral regime without adequate safeguards and also would not like to let the education sector be used as a bargaining chip in obtaining any gains in other sectors.

The role of the education sector in developing human resources to promote and sustain rapid economic and social growth cannot be over emphasized. It has been the considered view of the Government that India should retain all the options in the education sector to be exercised at a time most suitable in national interest.